



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Member Organizations

**The Umbrella Center for
Domestic Violence Services**

Ansonia, CT

The Center for Family Justice

Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center

Danbury, CT

Domestic Violence Program

United Services

Dayville, CT

**Network Against Domestic
Abuse**

Enfield, CT

Domestic Abuse Services

Greenwich YWCA

Greenwich, CT

Interval House

Hartford, CT

**Chrysalis Domestic Violence
Services**

Meriden, CT

New Horizons

Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center

New Britain, CT

**The Umbrella Center for
Domestic Violence Services**

New Haven, CT

Safe Futures

New London, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center

Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services

Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center

Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project

Torrington, CT

Safe Haven

Waterbury, CT

Domestic Violence Program

United Services

Testimony Regarding

HB 7027, AA Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2019 and Making Appropriations Therefor

Department of Public Health

Appropriations Committee

February 23, 2017

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, Representative Dillon and members of the committee. CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is the state's leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those who serve them. Our members provide essential services to nearly 40,000 victims of domestic violence each year. Services provided include 24-hour crisis response, emergency shelter, safety planning, counseling, support groups and court advocacy.

We urge you to protect funding for sexual assault services under the Department of Public Health (DPH) budget. This funding goes to support our sister coalition, Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (Alliance), and the work of their member centers.

According to the Alliance, nearly 1 in 5 Connecticut residents (19%) has experienced sexual assault in their lifetime, including 1 in 4 Connecticut women (26%) and 10% of Connecticut men. Many victims of domestic violence also experience sexual assault as part of the pattern of control in an abusive relationship. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), nearly 1 in 10 women in the US (9.4%) has been raped by an intimate partner. Men and women who have experienced rape in their lifetime are more likely to report a host of physical, emotional and mental health challenges, including: frequent headaches, chronic pain, difficulty sleeping, and activity limitations. (*The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010, CDC*)

Services provided by the Alliance and its member centers are critical to meet the needs of victims of sexual violence. Crisis intervention and counseling, and accompaniment and advocacy through the medical, police and court systems all help to address the costly, long-term impact of sexual violence.

The governor's budget recognizes the continued need for front line sexual assault crisis services and programs throughout our state. We ask that as you work to uphold the state's longstanding commitment to its residents to address sexual violence that you keep the level of funding for rape crisis intervention and prevention services in the governor's budget.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Liza Andrews

Director of Public Policy & Communications

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